

### **REMARKS**

By the above amendment, informalities in claims 3, 4, 6 and 7 in relation to the sign for degrees and other informalities have been corrected.

Applicants note that the indication that the Office Action is responsive to the communication filed on 8-31-01 is not understood, since such date has not yet been attained, with the last paper filed prior to the Office Action being an Information Disclosure Statement filed January 6, 2004. Applicants note that additionally an Amendment, Substitute Specification and Proposed Drawing Corrections were filed on December 26, 2001. In accordance with the present practice, submitted herewith are corrected drawings as proposed in the drawing amendments of December 26, 2001.

Turning to the requirement for election of one of the alleged following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention identified by the Examiner as Species 1 - Figs. 1-12; Species 2 - Fig. 13; Species 3 - Fig. 14; Species 4 - Figs. 15-19; Species 5 - Fig. 20; Species 6 - Fig. 21; Species 7 - Figs. 22-23; Species 8 - Figs. 24-25; Species 9 - Figs. 26-28; Species 10 - Fig. 29; Species 11 - Fig. 30; Species 12 - Fig. 31; Species 13 - Fig. 32; Species 14 - Fig. 33; Species 15 - Figs. 34-36; Species 16 - Figs. 37-39; Species 17 - Fig. 40; or Species 18 - Fig. 41, this requirement is traversed as being improper, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the requirement are respectfully requested.

The Examiner contends that currently, no claim is generic, and applicants submit that some of the independent claims are necessarily generic or sub-generic as is apparent from the fact that dependent claims depend directly or indirectly therefrom, such that it is apparent that the independent claims are readable on more than one species identified by the Examiner. As recognized by the Examiner, upon allowance of a generic claim, claims directed to additional species are necessarily considered.

In order to provide a complete response to the election requirement, applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, Species 18 - Fig. 41, and submit that independent claim 5 and dependent claims 6 and 7 are readable thereon.

For the foregoing reasons, withdrawal of the election requirement and favorable action with respect to all claims present in this application are respectfully requested.

Applicants note that also submitted herewith is an Information Disclosure Statement, and consideration of the documents submitted is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, applicant's petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (501.40560X00) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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